

A New *Calyptranthes* (Myrtaceae) from Nicaragua

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ABSTRACT. In preparation for the treatment of *Calyptranthes* (Myrtaceae) for the *Flora de Nicaragua*, a summary and identification key to the five known species from the country are presented. One of these, *Calyptranthes amarulenta* B. Holst, a new species from central Nicaragua, is described and illustrated. The new species is characterized by having bicolorous leaf blades when dry that are rounded to obtuse at the apex, a biconvex midvein on the upper leaf surface, and a glabrous inflorescence.

The known Nicaraguan *Calyptranthes* flora includes five species. Three of these are widespread: *C. chytraculia* (L.) Swartz from mostly lowland, coastal regions in southern Mexico and the Greater Antilles to northern Colombia, *C. hylobates* Standley ex Amshoff from lowland, mostly evergreen forests in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Panama, and *C. pallens* Grisebach, a polymorphic species found from low to moderately high elevations in semideciduous forests of southern Florida, Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. The fourth species, *C. amarulenta* B. Holst, is endemic to semideciduous forests at low elevations in central Nicaragua, and the fifth, a species of uncertain status, is known from mid-elevation cloud forests in Honduras and Nicaragua. The following key distinguishes the Nicaraguan species.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CALYPTRANTHES* IN NICARAGUA

- 1a. Branches of the inflorescence and/or flowers densely pubescent.
 - 2a. Inflorescence tomentose *C. chytraculia*
 - 2b. Inflorescence sericeous
. *C. pallens* var. *williamsii*
- 1b. Branches of the inflorescence and flowers glabrous, or at most with a few sparse hairs.
 - 3a. Young stems narrowly winged or 4-angled; peduncles and pedicels filiform . . . *C. hylobates*
 - 3b. Young stems terete or compressed, never angled; peduncles and pedicels robust.
 - 4a. Leaf apices rounded to obtuse; midvein biconvex on upper leaf surface
. *C. amarulenta*
 - 4b. Leaf apices abruptly long-acuminate; midvein sulcate on upper leaf surface *C. sp.*

Calyptranthes amarulenta B. Holst, sp. nov.
TYPE: Nicaragua. Chontales: Hacienda Veracruz, including Cerro La Batea and Cerro Los Charcos, 120–475 m, 12°11'N, 85°21'W, 17 July 1983, W. D. Stevens 22252 (holotype, MO; isotypes, BM, CR, EAP, F, HNMN, JBSD, K, MEXU, NY, SEL, SP, U, US). Figure 1.

Frutex vel arbor usque ad 8 m altus, ramulis compressis. Folia petiolo 4–6 mm longo sicco nigro, lamina in sicco bicolori, elliptica vel obovata, obtusa vel rotundata, costa supra biconvexa, venis lateralibus obscuris vel submanifestis. Panicula 8 ad 13 flora. Flos glaber; calyptra apiculata, hypanthio 1–2 mm longo. Fructus glaber, globosus.

Shrub 2–3 m tall or tree to 8 m tall; twigs slightly compressed, glabrescent, the young vegetative parts with sparse, scurfy trichomes. Leaves short-petiole, the petioles 4–6 mm long, black when dry, shallowly sulcate; blades bicolorous when dry, the upper surface dull to slightly lustrous, olive- to gray-green, lower surface brownish green, broadly elliptic to obovate, 5.2–7.2 × 2.5–4.2 cm, chartaceous, glabrescent; midvein broad, biconvex; secondary veins scarcely evident, 10 to 13 on each side; marginal vein 1–2 mm from blade margin and parallel to it, as prominent as the secondaries; apex obtuse to rounded; margin plane to slightly revolute; base cuneate; glands barely impressed-punctate on upper surface, convex or plane on lower surface. Inflorescence glabrous, twice branched, solitary or paired on abortive axes; bracts caducous, not known; peduncle 3.2–4.5 cm long; secondary branches 3–4.5 cm long. Flowers 8 to 13 per panicle, glabrous, sessile or seemingly long-pedicellate on 1-flowered branches that are 8–10 mm long; bracteoles caducous, not known; petals, stamens, style, and stigma unknown; hypanthium prolonged 1–2 mm beyond the ovary; calyptra apiculate, 3 mm wide. Fruits glabrous, globose, ca. 1 cm diam.; seed 1.

Calyptranthes amarulenta is known from the departments of Chontales and Matagalpa in Nicaragua where it is locally common in primary or disturbed, semideciduous forests at 120–500 m elevation. It is known by the common name “coralillo.” The spe-

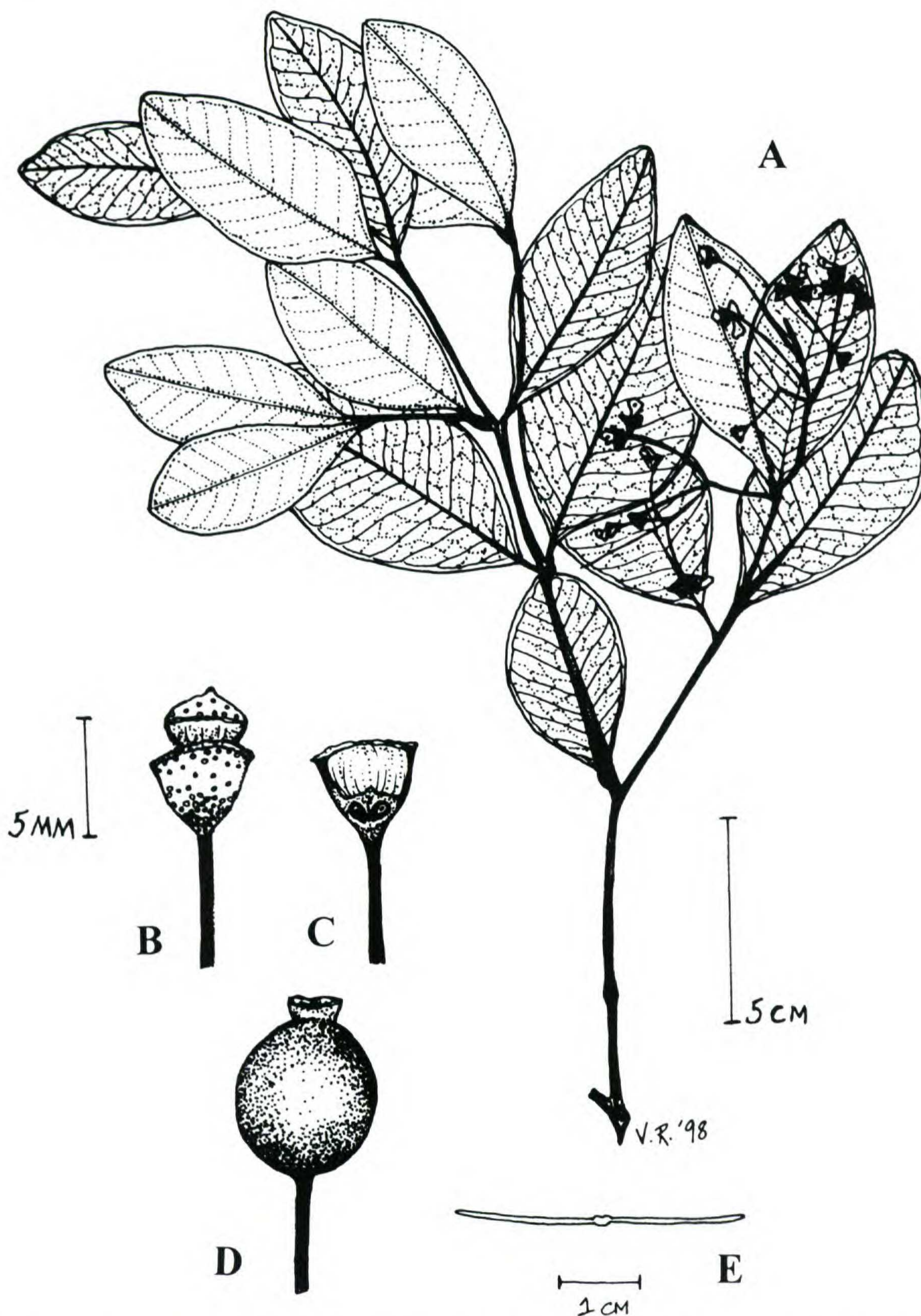


Figure 1. *Calyptranthes amarulenta* B. Holst. —A. Habit (leaf venation slightly exaggerated to show detail). —B. Flower, past anthesis. —C. Transverse section of flower. —D. Fruit. —E. Cross section of leaf blade. Drawn from Stevens 22428 (fruit); 22252 (habit, flowers, leaf detail).

cific epithet denotes the fruits, which are described as very bitter and inedible (Stevens 22428).

Calyptranthes amarulenta is readily distinguished from all other *Calyptranthes* in Nicaragua by having blunt leaves that dry bicolorous and a broad, biconvex midvein. It appears to be most closely related to *C. millspaughii* Urban of southern Mexico and Belize, from which it differs by having

glabrescent (vs. densely appressed-pubescent with coppery hairs) inflorescences and flowers and obtuse to rounded (vs. abruptly acuminate) leaf apices.

Paratypes. NICARAGUA. **Chontales:** ca. 2.8 km above (N of) Cuapa, ca. 12°17'N, 85°23'W, 400–500 m, 4 Sep. 1977, W. D. Stevens 3700 (MO); Hacienda Veracruz, including Cerro La Batea and Cerro Los [Charcos],

120–475 m, 12°11'N, 85°21'W, 4–6 Aug. 1983, *W. D. Stevens* 22428 (MO, SEL). **Matagalpa:** Ranchería, 11 km al NE de Muy muy, aprox. 280 m, 12°46'N, 85°31'W, 20–22 Aug. 1984, *P. P. Moreno* 24440 (MO, SEL), 24441 (MO).

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